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# THE TIMES

THE TIMES  
29

Crockford's: rise  
and fall of  
a card club, page 6

## Mrs Thatcher urges action against march violence

ts should have power to impose heavy  
ities for violence and hooliganism at street  
hes, Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Oppo-  
sition, said on television yesterday. She attacked  
the communist left, both of which, she  
said, wanted to destroy the society in which  
they lived. Most people would agree with her  
that the rule of law must be upheld, she said.

### Attack on 'destroyers of democracy'

Mrs Thatcher, leader of the  
opposition, called yesterday for  
penalties against anyone  
violence and hooliganism  
at street marches and for  
action against the  
"destroyers of democracy".  
She said the courts will  
be asked to deal with  
the "Tees Television", "be-  
cause you cannot get at it by  
any other means, then you have to  
use deterrents".  
Thatcher, in a pro-  
gramme called "The Press",  
said she had been attacked  
by the "Tees Television",  
which she called "the great  
destroyer of democracy".  
She said the communist  
left and the communist  
left, both of which, she  
said, wanted to destroy the  
society in which they lived.  
She said the rule of law  
must be upheld, and that  
the courts should have the  
power to impose heavy  
penalties for violence and  
hooliganism at street  
marches.

## Soldier shot dead in fast ambush

A corporal of the 1st  
The Gordon Highlanders  
was shot dead yesterday  
in a fast ambush in the  
Ardenne region of West  
Belfast.  
The soldier, who was  
named as Jack, was  
aged 25, from Dundee,  
married and had two  
children. He was shot  
while on patrol in the  
Ardenne region of West  
Belfast.  
The soldier was shot  
while on patrol in the  
Ardenne region of West  
Belfast.

## Mr Carter gloomy on Middle East

President Carter expressed  
pessimism over the chances of  
a Middle East settlement in the  
near future. He indicated that  
Washington is growing impatient  
with Israel's approach to  
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## Basque rally

Some 75,000 people attended a  
Basque nationalist rally near  
Pamplona at the end of a march  
through northern Spain by  
Basque demonstrators. Slogans  
in support of the Basque  
terrorist movement, the ETA,  
were shouted at the rally.



PC Alan Philips, of Notting Hill police station, entering into the carnival spirit.

## Trouble at opening of carnival

The first sign of possible  
trouble when block youths  
began to roam the streets after  
a case of mugging in the open  
space under Westway motorway  
at Acklam Road, one of the  
flashpoints of last year's riots.  
Two white men were set upon,  
and one had his clothes  
ripped. Stewards with loud  
hailers pacified the crowd  
while senior police officers  
watched.  
Scotland Yard reported three  
arrests. One youth was charged  
with pickpocketing, but two  
others were released without  
being charged.  
Two shop break-ins were  
reported in Portobello Road and  
in Ladbroke Grove, and about  
100 youths were involved in  
looting an electrical store in  
All Saints Road.  
Last year the police were  
criticized for creating tension  
by appearing in large numbers  
in the streets. This time Mr  
David McNee, Commissioner of  
the Metropolitan Police, pro-  
mised that his officers would  
remain unobtrusive unless  
trouble broke out.

## Sweden quits 'Snake' and Danes devalue

Frankfurt, Aug. 28.—Sweden  
is leaving the joint European  
currency float (the Snake),  
which links its exchange rate  
with six other North-West Eu-  
ropean countries, the West Ger-  
man Central Bank announced  
today.  
[In Copenhagen a Danish  
Government spokesman said the  
Swedish krona would be  
devalued by 10 per cent.]  
Denmark and Norway are  
remaining in the float, but will  
devalue their currencies by 5  
per cent, the West German  
Bank announced after a meet-  
ing of state bank governors and  
finance ministers from the  
seven states.  
The other Snake countries are  
West Germany, Holland,  
Belgium and Luxembourg.  
The West German bank said  
that Sweden plans to rejoin the  
Snake once it achieves a better  
foreign trade balance.  
The meeting in Frankfurt  
today was one of Sweden's  
requests. Informal sources here  
said that Sweden was going to  
ask for permission to devalue.  
Sweden's ailing economy has  
put heavy strains on North-west  
Europe's currency structure—  
which is intended to keep the  
values of partner currencies  
moving in near-unison with  
respect to the money of other  
countries.  
News of today's meeting  
leaked out on Friday—sending  
the Swedish krona tumbling  
through its floor value in New  
York trading—Reuters and  
Agence France-Presse.  
Roger Cheate writes from  
Stockholm: It was expected  
here that Sweden would in  
effect announce a 10 per cent  
devaluation of its krona against  
the non-Scandinavian currencies  
of the Snake.  
The decision was expected to  
be announced here tomorrow  
morning, informed sources said,  
together with an economic  
package to perk up the faltering  
economy. Mr Gösta Bohman, the  
Economics Minister, was en-  
route for Frankfurt or Brussels  
today to consult other  
members of the Snake.  
On April 1 the krona was  
devalued by 6 per cent. But this  
made no appreciable difference  
to the Swedish industry, which  
is suffering its worst economic  
crisis since the 1930s, caused by  
the combined effects of unem-  
ployment, rising costs and often  
unstable leadership.  
With inflation at nearly 16  
per cent and an enormous bal-  
ance of payments deficit, the  
Swedish Central Bank last week  
saw nearly 700m krona (199m  
dollars) drain away from its reserves.  
It was believed that the krona  
would be devalued by 10 per cent  
in the past few weeks.

## Union claim over radiation deaths

The High Court is to hear  
claims on behalf of the families  
of two former workers at the  
Winchcombe nuclear plant who  
died after being exposed to  
radiation.  
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of two former workers at the  
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radiation.

## Volvo-Saab plan to merge fails

The Swedish Volvo group has  
broken off negotiations with  
the Saab group over a planned merger.  
The Swedish Volvo group has  
broken off negotiations with  
the Saab group over a planned merger.

## Britain are third

Christopher Baillieu and  
Michael Hart won the gold  
medals in the double sculls at  
the world rowing championships  
in the men's heavyweight  
events.

## Link with Continental air controllers may cause further delays

By a Staff Reporter  
A further easing of delays at  
Heathrow airport was  
expected yesterday by British  
Airways on the third day of the  
four-day strike of air traffic  
control assistants.  
The average delay on flights  
from the airport was less than  
an hour. But the Civil and  
Public Services Association,  
which represents the assistants,  
announced action that could  
lead to matters becoming worse  
this week.  
It announced the establish-  
ment of a link with the French  
and Spanish air traffic control  
workers, who are also taking  
industrial action. Ways in which  
the three groups might  
coordinate their activities are  
to be examined.  
Joint international action, a  
union official said, might pose  
"a powerful new threat" to air  
traffic planning, particularly  
when the British air traffic  
control assistants resumed their  
computer ban from midnight  
tonight.  
When the strike ends tonight,  
a strike by 140 assistants at  
Prestwick, Avon, will continue.  
Whether other staff, such as  
telecommunications workers,  
will be drawn in has not yet  
been decided.  
Although British Airways was  
unable to say what financial  
losses had been incurred by the  
dispute, Mr Kenneth Thomas,  
general secretary of the  
CPSA, said that "massive  
losses" might force the Gov-  
ernment to give way on the  
claim.  
The association was not  
worried, he said, that the flight  
plan computer which came into  
use on Friday night was help-  
ing flight controllers to keep  
flights moving.  
"We were always aware that  
that was a possibility and of  
course its usefulness is grossly  
exaggerated. What has pro-  
duced the quickest this week-  
end is the basic decision to cut  
the services by half." Losses,  
he said, would add up to mil-  
lions of pounds.  
British Airways cancelled 62  
international flights yester-  
day; it normally operates 460  
in and out. "The improvement  
that started yesterday has been  
maintained today," the airline  
said.  
The whole of the intercon-  
tental revised programme was  
being kept up. Flights were  
being maintained by cancelling  
lightly booked flights and fill-  
ing up other aircraft.  
Four flights delayed from  
Saturday took off during the  
night. Charter flights were not  
so badly affected by the  
British action and delays were  
said to have been caused mainly  
by French and Spanish air  
traffic controllers.  
Gatwick and Manchester were  
even more severely delayed, up  
to 20 hours in some cases, with  
passengers being accommodated  
at hotels near the airport be-  
fore catching their flights yester-  
day.  
Ian Murray writes from Paris:  
On short-distance flights the  
air controllers' strike here is  
causing few difficulties, except  
from London, where there are  
delays of up to four hours. The  
union meets tomorrow to decide  
whether to continue the "strike  
of zeal" beyond next Monday.  
Traffic light: Improved  
weather yesterday after Satur-  
day's storms encouraged motor-  
ists to travel to the coast, but  
traffic was comparatively light.  
(The Press Association reports).  
The RAC estimated that 20,000  
cars an hour were leaving Lon-  
don on the main exit roads at  
noon, less than half the peak  
summer figure.  
The AA reported that only  
one main road, the A223 at  
Bexley, south-east London, was  
still closed to traffic because  
of flooding. In Dartford police  
said only a few minor roads  
were impassable.  
Elsewhere traffic was about  
average for a late summer  
Sunday. Roads to the Yorkshire  
coast were fairly busy, with  
some delays, but traffic through  
the Mersey tunnel was quieter  
than usual.  
A woman died and her hus-  
band was badly injured in a  
collision between a coach and  
her car on the A3 at Wisley,  
near Guildford. The 50 passen-  
gers and the driver of the coach  
were unhurt. The woman was  
Mrs Minnie White, of Poole,  
Dorset.  
Mr Michael Murphy, aged 24,  
of East Road, Bishop's Cleeve,  
was drowned when the dinghy  
a friend was rowing capsized on  
the Norfolk Broads, near Great  
Yarmouth.  
A boy of two was found dead  
in a swimming pool at Repps,  
Norfolk, on Saturday night. He  
was Jonathan Guy Mumford, of  
Fairfield Road, Addlestone,  
Surrey, whose body was found  
only two hours after his family  
had arrived on holiday.  
Computer ban, page 2

## One family in 50 may have second home

By Robin Young  
This is the weekend when a  
record number of Britons are  
expected to be taking their ease  
at their place in the country or  
by the sea. The main difficulty  
with that picture of leisure  
tranquillity is that, in marked  
contrast with other European  
countries, overwhelming num-  
bers of us have no such place  
to which to go.  
Statistics on the subject are  
hard to get, but the Depart-  
ment of the Environment's best  
guess is that there may be no  
more than 350,000 second homes  
in England and Wales, and  
another 25,000 in Scotland.  
About half are believed to be  
caravans. In 1972 it was esti-  
mated that the numbers might  
be growing by about 25,000 a  
year, of which the greater num-  
ber would be "built" second  
homes.  
Since the halcyon days of  
1972 mortgages for the purchase  
of second homes have become  
much more difficult to obtain  
and tax relief on them has been  
abolished. Home improvement  
grants ceased to be available to  
second home owners from 1974.  
The proportion of grants in-  
volved had always been tiny,  
considering the amount of con-  
troversy they caused. Even in  
the South-west, a popular area  
for second homes, the tax-  
counted for less than 2 per cent  
of grants.  
The Department of the En-  
vironment admits that the ex-  
pected rate of increase in  
second-home ownership must  
have been greatly reduced. Al-  
though second homes have at-  
tracted the wrath of Shelter  
and the Welsh Language  
Society, Britain remains firmly  
at the bottom of the European  
league of second-home owner-  
ship.  
Perhaps one British family in  
50 has a second home. In  
Sweden there is one for every  
five households, more than half  
a million altogether. In France  
there were 1,683,653 in 1975  
and the rate of increase is  
reckoned to be five more every  
year. Second homes represent  
8 per cent of France's total  
housing stock, and special areas  
are designated for the develop-  
ment of new colonies.  
A second home can be any-  
thing from a luxuriously con-  
verted windmill to an over-  
grown beach hut, but for  
most people, lacking either the  
rented holiday cottage is prob-  
ably the height of aspiration.  
Such organizations as the  
National Trust and the Land-  
mark Trust, though they charge  
high prices, never fill the  
demand for their accommoda-  
tion.  
In the areas where second  
homes and holiday cottages are  
mainly sought, estate agents  
report the usual rash of hopeful  
inquiries from summer visitors.  
Bob Barry, agent of the East-  
on, says they rarely see hillside  
ruins requiring new owners'  
loving renovations reaching the  
market these days.  
When they do, they can fetch  
up to £8,000, but in a village  
a terrace cottage, needing im-  
provements might be only  
£3,500.  
That part of North Wales has  
the distinction of probably hav-  
ing the community with the  
highest proportion of second  
homes among its total dwellings.  
The parish of Llwynegion, Cwyn-  
edd, which includes the Aber-  
slech yachting centre. More than  
half of the houses are second  
homes.

## Dr Owen fails to sway Mr Nkomo

Lusaka, Aug. 28.—Dr Owen,  
the Foreign Secretary, and Mr  
Young, the American United  
Nations representative, held  
intensive talks here today with  
nationalist guerrilla leaders in  
the latest attempt to obtain a  
Rhodesian settlement, but  
apparently failed to bridge a  
wide gap on who would control  
the army in a negotiated transi-  
tion to African rule.  
The issue is now the crucial  
one in the efforts to try to end  
guerrilla war in Rhodesia  
and secure a peaceful transfer  
of power from 270,000 whites  
to the six million blacks.  
The disbanding of Rhodesia's  
security force is believed to be  
one of the conditions of the  
latest Anglo-American propo-  
sals.  
Dr Owen and Mr Young  
spent more than two and a half  
hours with the guerrilla  
leaders, Mr Robert Mugabe and  
Mr Joshua Nkomo, of the  
Patriotic Front alliance. They  
lasted from 10.30 to 1.30, and  
talked with Mr Vorster, the  
South African Prime Minister,  
in Pretoria tomorrow.  
After today's meeting Mr  
Nkomo made clear that he had  
not diluted his demand for  
guerrillas to play a key role as  
the security force responsible  
for policing the transition to  
black rule—which the white  
Rhodesians say they could not  
countenance.  
Any movement from the  
war of independence must be  
superintended by those forces  
that are fighting for change",  
Mr Nkomo said. The two men  
had not been given written  
proposals by the British and  
American envoys and "until we  
see the document our position  
remains", he told reporters.  
Yesterday Dr Owen and Mr  
Young held lengthy talks with  
leaders of black Africa's "front  
line" states, who also demanded  
that any settlement provide for  
Mr Smith's resignation as  
Prime Minister and the removal  
of his army.  
Controversy over the armed  
forces stems from the deep mis-  
trust between the nationalists  
and the white-led army they are  
fighting in an increasingly  
bitter war.  
Mr Smith, reflecting white  
concern that handing the army  
to a black army would cause  
chaos and destruction, has said  
he will reject any settlement plans  
Continued on page 5, col 4

## Chinese industry urged to show profit in an ideological turnabout

From David Bonavia  
Hongkong, Aug. 28  
An authoritative statement  
about the importance of profits  
in industry was published in  
the Peking People's Daily at  
the weekend. It is clearly no  
coincidence that it comes just  
after the reinstatement of Mr  
Teng Hsiao-ping, as Vice-Chair-  
man of the party and Deputy  
Prime Minister.  
The article said that all  
industries should make profits,  
and those which did not do so  
should be ashamed. It also  
pointed out that profits would  
be used to increase workers'  
benefits.  
This idea—which it would  
have been near-suicidal to  
voice one year ago—is at the  
heart of the heated debates  
about industry and finance  
which have been going on in  
China for the past decade and  
more. It is one of the crucial  
issues over which the Chinese  
leaders have in the past  
differed from the Soviet  
leadership.  
The statement in the People's  
Daily was not unexpected, as  
the way for it has already been  
prepared by articles in other  
party organs reassessing the  
role of profit in state-run in-  
dustries.  
Under the financial theories  
of the Cultural Revolution in  
the late 1960s, it was anathema  
for industrial managers to "put  
profits in command". They  
were indeed expected to show  
a profit, which was paid to the  
state. But more emphasis was  
placed on "revolutionary"  
organization of the workforce,  
forcing more working hours out  
of men and machines without  
extra pay or maintenance, and  
indoctrinating the workers with  
the idea that whatever they did  
was for the good of the nation  
alone.  
Although a clear movement  
towards profit-consciousness can  
be observed in China since the  
overthrow of Mao Tse-tung's

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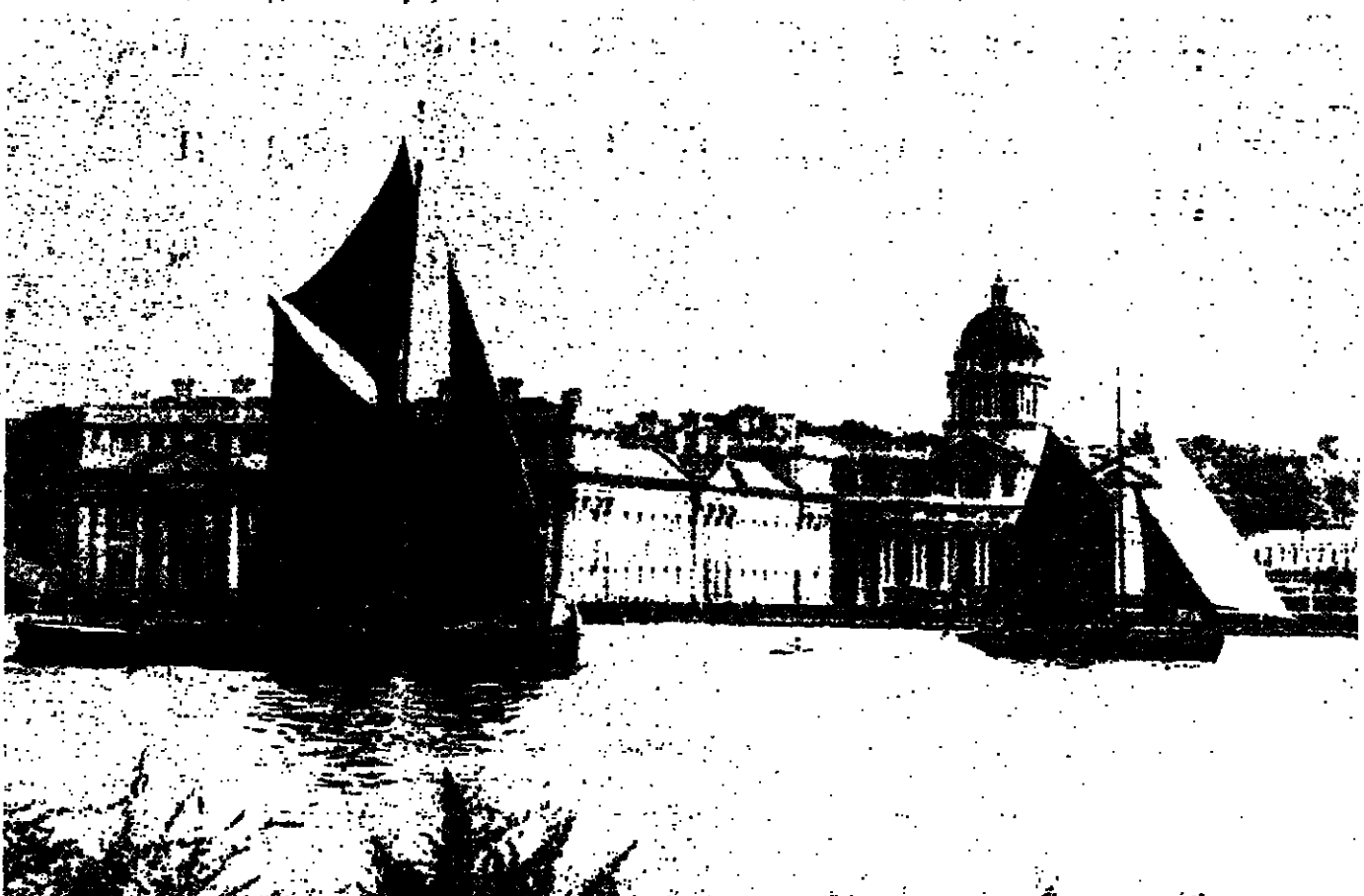
HOME NEWS

# Compensation claims for families of two nuclear workers

A Special Correspondent writes from London. General and Municipal Workers' Union is attempting to secure compensation for the families of two men who before death were employed as workers at British Nuclear Fuels' Windscale plant. The claimants are to be heard before a High Court, sitting at Leeds on November 15, and the case is of importance to the nuclear industry. The Union is to be suing the company for compensation for the death of Mr Jonathan Trough, 55, of Muldon, and Mr King, aged 49, of Eggleston, under the Nuclear Installations Act, 1959, which provides that the deaths were a result of exposure to radiation while the two men were employed at Windscale. Trough was a plutonium worker for 14 years. He had multiple myeloma, of the bone marrow, in 1975. An open fracture was recorded at a Whitehouse, when it was his own question of a fracture of his arm and his employment was for some time. Trough died from a brain cancer after a long period of illness and it is contended that the radiation exposure was a contributory factor. The case is also being pursued on behalf of the family of another former worker, Mr Malcolm King, aged 36, of Frizingham, died from leukaemia, employed at Windscale. He was transferred to a "risk" area at the plant and placed on the "red" list of workers, after exposure to radiation. High Court hearings are between the union and the company, and in a long battle to compensate the rights of the workers and their families. The Nuclear Installations Act, 1959, provides that the company is to be liable for compensation for the death of a worker or his family if the death is caused by exposure to radiation while he was employed at the plant. The company is to be liable for compensation for the death of a worker or his family if the death is caused by exposure to radiation while he was employed at the plant. The company is to be liable for compensation for the death of a worker or his family if the death is caused by exposure to radiation while he was employed at the plant.

# Query to ICI on time off for would-be Front MPs

By Our Labour Editor. The General and Municipal Workers' Union has asked ICI if the chemical company would give employees time off to pursue parliamentary ambitions. The union is to be heard before a High Court, sitting at Leeds on November 15, and the case is of importance to the nuclear industry. The Union is to be suing the company for compensation for the death of Mr Jonathan Trough, 55, of Muldon, and Mr King, aged 49, of Eggleston, under the Nuclear Installations Act, 1959, which provides that the deaths were a result of exposure to radiation while the two men were employed at Windscale. Trough was a plutonium worker for 14 years. He had multiple myeloma, of the bone marrow, in 1975. An open fracture was recorded at a Whitehouse, when it was his own question of a fracture of his arm and his employment was for some time. Trough died from a brain cancer after a long period of illness and it is contended that the radiation exposure was a contributory factor. The case is also being pursued on behalf of the family of another former worker, Mr Malcolm King, aged 36, of Frizingham, died from leukaemia, employed at Windscale. He was transferred to a "risk" area at the plant and placed on the "red" list of workers, after exposure to radiation. High Court hearings are between the union and the company, and in a long battle to compensate the rights of the workers and their families. The Nuclear Installations Act, 1959, provides that the company is to be liable for compensation for the death of a worker or his family if the death is caused by exposure to radiation while he was employed at the plant. The company is to be liable for compensation for the death of a worker or his family if the death is caused by exposure to radiation while he was employed at the plant. The company is to be liable for compensation for the death of a worker or his family if the death is caused by exposure to radiation while he was employed at the plant.



Two of several historic Thames barges under sail which took part in a rally at Greenwich yesterday, passing the Royal Naval College.

# Edinburgh festival group fights opera plan

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh. Edinburgh Festival Society will be drawn tomorrow into the dispute over the opera house site in the city centre, which Edinburgh District Council has decided to offer for hotel development. The decision to dispose of the one-acre Castle Terrace site was made last week on the casting vote of Lord Provost Kenneth Borthwick, who is also chairman of the festival society. Moves to use court action to prevent disposal of the site are under consideration. Tomorrow a requisition signed by at least 24 members of the festival society will be handed to a meeting of the festival council demanding that a meeting be called within three weeks to discuss implications of the decision to the Edinburgh International Festival. Opponents of the plan to lease the whole site include the Scottish Arts Council and a strong lobby within Lothian Regional Council. The theatre lobby is seeking to reserve a small part of the site for essential development of the Royal Lyceum Theatre, which adjoins the area and is a main venue for festival productions. Mr Borthwick has been criticized for using his casting vote at the meeting and, as chairman of the festival society, for defying expert opinion. Councillor William Roe, a member of the Labour group on Edinburgh District Council and of the festival society, said yesterday: "The first objective will be to prevent the early disposal of the site and to arrange fully manned, proper discussions. "The damaging point about the district council's decision is that it was made in the same week as a financial appeal on behalf of the festival was launched. "Mr Roe described a scheme by the city architect for improving the Lyceum without encroaching on the Castle Terrace site as ingenious but costly. It would mean demolishing recently completed alterations to the theatre, he said. The cost was believed to be between £3m and £4m. Mr Borthwick has insisted that the improvements to the theatre could be made without encroaching on the Castle Terrace site. He says Edinburgh needs good theatres and good hotels for its international reputation as a festival and conference centre.

# st are opposed to bank nationalization, poll shows

Reporters do not want the banks to be nationalized, and most also think it is to higher charges to service to customers to surveys conducted of the Committee of Clearing Banks, today. About a third of the appears to be aware of the proposals to nationalize the banks, the report conducted by Market Research and Social Surveys (MRS) says. Analysis of views about the banks, the poll shows, is highest, an average of 10, ahead of the societies (8.1), insurance companies (7.1), oil companies (6.1), the Post Office (5.1), gas industry and shipbuilding (4.1), and the (3.1). Nationalization of any industry, the poll shows, would be a bottom of the table score of 5.5 with car on the drawing-board. es left to rot. Cabbages in Lincolnshire are being left to rot, it is being ploughed in, they are rotting. Boy bitten by adder. John Balcomb, aged 10, was recovering in hospital at Chichester yesterday after being bitten by an adder at a caravan park at Selsey, West Sussex. Mr Taylor challenged that.

# Eleven escape as boat hits rocks

Eleven people, including a boy of six, escaped to the shore on a rubber life raft yesterday after their converted fishing boat struck rocks in Stornoway Bay, in the outer Hebrides, in high winds. The group are members of a French society which undertakes maritime research activities, and had been on holiday in Greenland and the Faroes.

# £50,000 winner

The weekly £50,000 Premium Savings Bond Prize, announced on Saturday, was won by number 12 YK 57473. The winner lives in Derbyshire. The 25 £1,000 winners are: 4 AN 57172, 9 Q5 04199, 6 LB 18319, 2 B1 18282, 4 DB 43277, 1 V8 27790, 7 F2 18703, 1 V8 27790, 2 J8 28453, 1 V8 27790, 9 BT 28611, 1 V8 27790, 12 YK 57473, 12 YK 10860.

# Homes will offer help to alcoholics

From Arthur O'Connor, Birmingham. The first of three residential homes in the Midlands offering courses to help alcoholics is to be opened in Birmingham next Monday. The other two, at Northampton and Wolverhampton, should open in October. The homes are to be run by a voluntary body called Aquadus, which is financed from several sources, including the Department of Health and Social Security, private trusts and local authorities, and the alcoholics' rehabilitation research unit at Birmingham University. The first hostel, at Edgbaston, has 15 places, nine for men and six for women, and residents will be expected to stay for between three and four months, during which they will be encouraged to take responsibility for the day-to-day running of the house. The programme will be based on a method of counselling called personal skills training, which has been developed in America. Its objective will be to help people with difficulties overcome their "become self-supporting. There will be three full-time professional workers who have had extensive training in the social work and psychological methods to be used.

# Yard refuses to comment on corruption allegations

By Clive Borrell, Crime Correspondent. Scotland Yard declined to comment last night on allegations made by Mr James Humphreys, the former Soho pornography dealer, that an undisclosed number of senior officers in the Metropolitan Police are corrupt. The allegation appeared in the Sunday People four days after Mr Humphreys, aged 47, was released from Maidstone prison. He had served three years and eight months of an eight-year sentence for wounding. The Home Office said his early release was in recognition of the help he had given the police in the prosecution and conviction of 13 former detectives as the Yard on corruption charges. The report stated that Mr Humphreys was planning to make a full statement of his allegations to Mr Michael Harris, his solicitor, who would pass it to the Home Secretary. On condition that the police hand over their own file on Mr Humphreys. In his new statement Mr Humphreys said that he would name several senior officers and paying out several hundreds of pounds in bribes. reward money which should have been paid to informers. He also alleged that he knew the name of a detective who was paid to smuggle drugs through Heathrow airport. A former Yard officer who ran a public house as the hub of a bribery and corruption racket would also be named. Mr Humphreys alleged that the Yard failed to take criminal proceedings against nine detectives whom he named as receivers of bribes. Some honest, conscientious detectives never received promotion, Mr Humphreys said, because they offended criminals who were paying senior officers bribes for immunity. Scotland Yard's reluctance to make any comment about the allegations is understandable, as they have not yet received them in an official form. The past year has seen the conviction of Commander Kenneth Drury, the force's former flying squad chief, and many other top-ranking officers whose names featured in a little black diary kept by Mr Humphreys at a time when he claims he was earning £2,000 a week from pornography and paying out several hundreds of pounds in bribes.

# Lord Denning rebuked for 'mobs' speech

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said on Saturday that he was "rebuked in high quarters" for his warning in June that the "mobs are out" and that police needed support. "I thought it was quite elementary," he told law students at the University College at Buckingham. "But I was rebuked in high quarters for saying it. "We ought to play it cool. It was said, and judges should not say things like that. That is where the rule of law is being threatened. We stand on the very threshold of the maintenance of the rule of law. "Lord Denning, who was opening a law library named after him, said justice was what right-thinking members of the community believed to be fair. "In these days, it is what is not only fair between man and man, but between man and the state, and between man and the trade unions. On June 28 Lord Denning told a meeting of Justice, the British section of the International Commission of Jurists: "Our laws are being disregarded right and left. The mobs are out. The police are being subjected to violence."

# Assets in Jersey frozen over alleged UK tax debt

A case with important implications for the future of Jersey's tax status has been brought before the island's Royal Court. It involves a local man aged 84 whose assets have been taken over by the Viscount (a Jersey tax official) because of an alleged debt of £199,718, due to the Inland Revenue, which brought bankruptcy proceedings in London. An application has been filed for the release of the property on the ground that the United Kingdom is a foreign country for local purposes. Last February the court gave the Inland Revenue 14 days to file pleadings in reply. The Inland Revenue claims that Mr Harold Taylor, of Victoria Avenue, St Helier, owes them tax on commissions he is said to have earned while working as a secretary to a building society in the United Kingdom. The claim is denied. According to an Order of Justice, heard by Jersey Royal Court earlier this month, the Inland Revenue presented a petition for bankruptcy ruling in London were "a blatant attempt to enforce a foreign revenue debt". Mr Taylor challenged that.

# y shoppers settle for cheap ice cream

Clayton now so much used at times that it has become necessary of household. Mrs Beeton wrote. Ice are, by modern standards, placed reach of most household recipe for vanilla sufficient for eight included a pint of egg yolks and half milk. an 100 years later, in two months ago, Mr Thorpe said in the Commons: "Some of it would be rather as if ice cream were not filthy vegetable spreading under that of ice cream are have not favoured criticism has been by attempts to impose strict rules of dairy names on processed foods. efforts have been the food industry in welcomed by those that traditional foods have been, con large processing that disguise poverty with lavish pack-trendless promotion. There are con-

high standards of hygiene and has a definite nutritional value. It does not include the grease, surplus hair oil, reduced pig's trotters and other substances that critics attribute to it. It sometimes contains fish oil. One of the most important points about ice cream is that it is cheap compared with many other foods. That may not be surprising in view of its composition. Shoppers expect it to be cheap. Most say more interested in its price than whether it is made from the finest Devon cream or from oil that could equally belong in margarine or tinned soup. Visitors to Harland, one of the remotest towns in Devon and probably in England, could buy from its small café and general store earlier this summer a 10p ice cream that was stated to contain full cream and tasted very much as if it did. That ice cream cost no more than the commercial vegetable oil product sold in sweet shops and from the jangling vans that cruise through suburban housing estates and along sea fronts. Large companies say they cannot make full-cream ice cream in quantity because it would cost more than customers would want to pay. Since the ice cream sections of large food companies are

are not published. There is no detailed up-to-date evidence about the profitability of different types of ice cream made on an industrial scale. Critics of British ice cream often compare it unfavourably with its French counterpart. French law forbids the use of vegetable oil in place of dairy fat, and so much French ice cream is "creamier" than most British. The law may have been framed to protect consumers. It may well, however, have been intended to protect farmers from the loss of an important consumer market. It was the EEC dairy lobby that made British ice cream companies think earlier this year that they might be forced to label their products "ice cream" contains mainly vegetable fat", or even "ice cream". Ice cream will be examined in Brussels in September when EEC institutions end their summer holiday. Although the British Government intends to defend this country's law on composition of ice cream, many officials in London and Whitehall without sympathy for dairy farmers feel that British labelling law is too lax. It is lawful, for example, to describe as "strawberry flavour ice cream", a product containing neither strawberries nor

means today

machines and systems for energy

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# 75,000 Basques shout pro-ETA slogans at Pamplona rally

The Hague, Aug. 28.—Dr. Gerhard Veringa, named by Queen Juliana as mediator, took up the challenge today of trying to get together a Dutch cabinet. Considered by many as the most powerful of the three months of political crisis, Dr. Veringa, who is 53 and a Christian Democrat, was Minister of Education from 1946 to 1971. He must mediate between the rival parties after they collapse over plans for reforming the abortion law, of efforts by Mr. Joop den Uyl, the market-oriented Minister, to form a coalition.

The Queen has given Dr. Veringa more scope than Mr. den Uyl had, asking him to study possibilities of forming a cabinet. "It is not clear if a sufficient measure of support exists in Parliament,"—Reuter.

the Prime Minister, encouraging decentralization, both the Congress in the Barcelona area

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Aug 28

Carlos has ended speculation that he will be Spain's first bearded king for 400 years. He has shaved off the two-week-old beard that the grey during a holiday in the island.—AP

Agence France-Presse and UPI

July price index shows an increase of 0.9 per cent.

A special Cabinet meeting Wednesday is to review the unemployment problem, which M Barre has been studying first hand in five of the most depressed areas.—AP

Brussels, Aug. 28.—The EEC's "butter mountain" has doubled since April and now totals 417,000 tonnes.

**European Commission** sources said it was worried for the butter mountain to grow at this time of year because summer is the peak period for milk production. The surplus of butter in the community also has risen to 1,080,000 tonnes.

The sales of 50,000 tonnes of EEC-subsidized butter to the Soviet Union at about a third of the price first to the consumers of that community. The Commission blocked sales for a few weeks after protests by Britain and east Germany.

The sales were resumed after the Soviet Union agreed to export of farm products, reacted sharply, *Reuter*.

**Assemblymen** said that at Brussels on Friday night, said that it was time to take immediate action for selective refloating of a economy.

He called for improvements in credit terms and salaries and said that the country had made an immense effort to fit up to the needs of social progress. France's problem was now to make the necessary crisis and this would require all its energies.

M. Chirac's call to refloat a economy is clearly made in a state of mind that would use the guns of the Union of the Left.

The leaders of the left continue to affirm that despite their differences they would achieve a common programme when they meet next month.

The F15 supersonic fighter of which three squadrons have recently arrived in Bitburg to

From Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent  
Ramstein, West Germany,  
Aug 78

United States Air Force officers have admitted their appointment with the results of last Thursday's demonstration by the new A10 close support aircraft, its first live fire trials in Europe.

From Gretel Spitzer

The previous day Professor Hellmuth Nitsche, a German language scholar, and Dr. Heinz Nitschke, a physician who had both been held in prison for interrogation because of their campaign for human

shells into and round the target tank during the display near the Czechoslovak border.

The accuracy of the bombing was mixed, with one bomb failing to explode. The strafing demonstration by the aircraft was awesome. GAUSA anti-tank cannon was more impressive than that of the USAF, but I did not fire it, for reasons that are still to be explained.

One officer at the USAF headquarters here commented: "We are looking into this. We were not impressed by it either." He thought that the crews had not yet adjusted to European conditions after training in the USA.

But it has not dimmed A Force enthusiasm for the A.

rights in East Germany arrive

Professor Nitsche had earlier applied three times to be permitted to leave East Germany with his wife and their two children. His wife has also been released from prison.

# Jailed war criminals become symbols

those who are still free. Not  
can their crimes be measured  
in terms of present-day  
criminal law. How can a  
modern system specify between  
the punishment due to a man  
who was responsible for the  
death of 20,000 deported Jews.

West Germany and Holland have continued to prosecute their own nationals who are guilty of war crimes, despite rising public opinion which

... ..

Mr Pehr Gyllenhammar, the Volvo president, told a press conference in Göteborg: "Volvo can no longer await the results of Saab-Scania's internal discussions, but must push ahead with its own development."

ing profits. In a separate statement today, Mr Gyllenhamer said that pre-tax profits during the first half of the year were 204m kroner (£24m) compared with 346m kroner for the same period last year. Sales were unchanged at about 1,000 cars.

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## OVERSEAS

# Mr Carter pessimistic on chances Middle East settlement and accuses Israel of inflexibility

David Cross, Aug 28. President Carter's assessment of the chances of a Middle East settlement in the near future appears more pessimistic than did his earlier statements.

He said in an interview with reporters in an interview last week and here yesterday that he was going to be a great disappointment in the States and around the world. He said that some progress was not made in the past year.

President also indicated that he was somewhat disappointed with the new Israeli approach to peace, without mentioning any by name he said that he was impatient among nations with regard to the East.

Country that prove to be an obstacle to peace would suffer at least a degree of condemnation of the world, he said. His Administration had much more confidence and a more flexible attitude in the Arab leaders, he added.

Mr Carter went to the base yesterday to see the Secretary of State, the Secretary

of State, on his return from Peking. He described the visit to China as a "highly successful" and "very important" step forward in normalizing relations between Washington and Peking.

However, he made it clear both in his welcoming remarks to Mr Vance and in his interview with reporters that the trip was essentially exploratory with deliberately limited objectives. The establishment of full diplomatic relations was undoubtedly going to be well in the future, he said.

Mr Carter's personal welcome to Mr Vance was clearly designed to underline the importance of his Administration's approach to improving relations with China, which he described as a country of central importance in the world. Before Mr Vance's arrival, he made a point of chartering a plane to take four senior diplomats from China's diplomatic mission in Washington.

His equal emphasis on the long-term nature of the process of exchanging ambassadors was almost certainly calculated to assure Taiwan and its supporters in the United States that the present Administration has no immediate intention of

abandoning its long-standing ally.

In his interview with reporters Mr Carter said the Secretary of State's reports from Peking had been very encouraging. "But," he said, "we do not intend to act hastily. When we do make a decision about China, if we make one of recognition... it will be based on what I consider to be the best interests of our country."

It was important for his Administration to get acquainted with China's new leadership and explore the terms under which normal relations might take place without full formal recognition, he added.

Mr Vance has been less forthcoming about the outcome of his talks in Peking. On his arrival in Washington he would only say his visit had been "good and useful."

He was reporting in detail to President Carter at the White House last night, but his earlier comments in Peking and Tokyo, where he spent the latter half of last week, gave no indication that China had withdrawn its demand that the United States sever all ties with Taiwan.

Leading article, page 9.



From left: Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary; Mr Young, the American representative at the United Nations; President Nyerere of Tanzania; President Machel of Mozambique and President Kaunda of Zambia, in Lusaka on Saturday for the first round of "front line states" talks.

## Mr Smith voices confidence

Continued from page 1

put to him when the Western powers go to Salisbury on Thursday. If they call for his resignation and the removal of his army.

Mr Momo made clear by his use of the word "superior" today that he, like the front line states—Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Botswana and Angola—wanted the present guerrilla army to take over from the white force, a move which would hasten the white exodus from the territory.

Reuter.

Johannesburg, Aug 28.—Dr Owen said on his arrival here that he did not believe Mr Smith had already rejected the Anglo-American proposals. He said: "I don't take anything Mr Smith has said recently as rejection."

UPI.

Our Salisbury correspondent writes: Mr Smith has expressed confidence that the South African Government will support him in whatever decision he makes regarding the Anglo-American proposals.

After what was described as a "cordial and constructive" two-hour meeting with Mr Vorster in Pretoria yesterday, Mr Smith said the South African Government had "given us their blessing and their hopes for a settlement."

Mr Smith's personal popularity transcends the doubts and confusions of the whites over the present political uncertainties, and he is widely expected to receive a massive vote of confidence in the white electorate in Wednesday's general election.

## Views of Rhodesian right-wingers seem to be falling on deaf ears

From Michael Knipe, Salisbury, Aug 28.

The election meeting staged by the right-wing Rhodesian Action Party (RAP) at the Empire Country Club, 24 miles north-east of Salisbury, attracted eight people in a room prepared for 70.

The candidate, Mr Rodney Simmonds, until a few months ago an MP for the ruling Rhodesian Front (RF), said smoothly he was sure the audience made up in quality what it lacked in quantity.

Mr Simmonds, aged 52, tall and urbane, is perhaps a quintessential white Rhodesian of his generation. Born in Marandellas, east of Salisbury, he was a wartime RAF fighter pilot colleague of Mr Smith, the Prime Minister. After the war he obtained a degree in economics and anthropology and then spent 25 years working in African administration—or native affairs as it was then termed.

Mr Simmonds believes he knows the African and he joined the Rhodesian Front, he said, "because he believed it took 'cognizance' of the different mental attitudes of the races" and of the African psyche in particular.

It was not surprising that he became one of the 12 Rhodesian Front MPs to rebel when the Government decided to modify the segregation laws last January.

For many years Mr Simmonds was known as "Sjambok" Simmonds, a result of an altercation with an African.

Against a background of jovial conversation and the clink of bottles and glasses from the adjoining bar, Mr Simmonds said he now felt the country and its citizens were in mortal danger from the Government's policies.

The choice before the white electorate was the Rhodesian Front and black majority rule or the retention of government in white hands under the RAP.

Mr Smith had been the man of the moment, but that moment had passed.

"With his fetish for a settlement, he has led us into a corner and if things go on as they are there will be a security rule within a year with someone like the Rev Ndebele, Sithole—that black political moderate—as Prime Minister."

There was a rustle of discomfort at that thought from the five men and three women present.

The RF defenders have endured an otherwise lacklustre election campaign by displays of contempt for their former party.

The most stinging attack has come from Mr Kap's campaign manager, Mr Des Frost, previously the chairman and indeed virtually the conscience of the Rhodesian Front.

He told one election meeting that he was terrified of the situation in Rhodesia today, explaining: "I don't believe we will be in this country as free people within a year if the RF comes to power again."

Theman who for 12 years was at the pulse-centre of the governing party, continued: "We are reaping what we have sown—a lack of initiative and negative approaches by the Prime Minister during the last decade."

"We have always waited for someone else to tell us what to do. When the talks were breaking down after Geneva I approached the Prime Minister and asked him not to leave Rhodesia in a vacuum."

"Come up with a Rhodesian solution," I said. He told me he was sorry but he did not know what to do.

"After 12 years of negotiating one would think he would know what he was doing, but it gets worse by the day."

"The RF is coming from such a source, might seem a searing indictment of the governing party but they appear to be falling on deaf ears. There were only 27 people at Mr Smith's meeting and several other RF meetings round the country have had to be cancelled because of lack of interest."

## soners of science



## asia:

## Volvo breaks out

Watts.

Volvo Pannomaryov is an engineer and one of Soviet dissidents who has been in psychiatric hospitals since 1970. He was arrested in 1970 and sent to a psychiatric hospital in the All-Union Institute of Medical Design. He was then sent to a public institution in November, 1971. Mr. Ingberg went on hunger strike in protest against the psychiatric treatment of political prisoners. Pannomaryov was then sent to a psychiatric hospital in Leningrad. He was detained in Leningrad until 1974 when he was released.

cause, he had been diagnosed as "schizophrenic" and therefore unable to live on his own. The official of his mental illness was him susceptible to psychiatric treatment, precisely what happened in April, 1974, when he was put in a psychiatric hospital in Leningrad. He was then sent to a psychiatric hospital in Leningrad. He was then sent to a psychiatric hospital in Leningrad. He was then sent to a psychiatric hospital in Leningrad.

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## nonstrations at Gandhi court

and Wige.

second day running, the appearance in court of Mr. Sanjay Gandhi yesterday was greeted by an organized group of supporters from the Youth Congress organization which he once led. They had been brought in by coaches and had been waiting outside the court for some time. The group of supporters, who were dressed in white, were seen to be shouting slogans and waving flags. The court proceedings were interrupted for some time by the noise and confusion of the demonstration.

Mr. Sanjay Gandhi's appearance in court was the first time in the history of the court that a demonstration of this kind had taken place. The court had been closed for some time by the demonstration.

## Cairo report of US 'dialogue' with PLO

Cairo, Aug 28.—A "silent dialogue" between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the United States is already under way, despite the PLO's rejection of the UN resolution 242 at a recent meeting of its central council in Damascus, the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram reported today.

Resolution 242, passed by the United Nations Security Council in 1947, says that every state in the Middle East has the right to exist within "secure" boundaries, and refers to the Palestinians as "refugees".

President Carter has urged the PLO to accept the resolution with a possible reservation on their refugee status, as a prerequisite to an American dialogue with the PLO and their attendance at a renewed Geneva peace conference.

The PLO central council rejected the resolution, saying that it "ignores the national rights of our people and deals with our cause as a cause of refugees."

Al-Ahram referred to the "encouraging... silent efforts" exerted for an American-Palestinian dialogue, which may turn into a public dialogue leading momentum to the

Middle East peace-making process.

In an interview published in Beirut today Mr. Ahmad Iskender, the Syrian Minister of Information, issued a thinly veiled call to the Arabs to go to war with Israel if present efforts for a peaceful solution of the Middle East conflict failed.

In the interview with the independent magazine *Monday Morning*, Mr. Iskender said: "Taking into consideration Israel's daily statements indicating Israel's refusal to withdraw from Arab lands, we do not think there is one glimmer of hope that the Geneva conference will convene."

Asked whether the Arabs would fight only if war was declared "by the other side," Mr. Iskender replied: "The Arabs will take any initiative, any measure which might help them regain their lands and their freedom."

Libyan-Egypt dispute: Libyan and Egyptian officials today began a meeting at the frontier town of Sabha to resolve the disputes between the two countries.

Mr. Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, who helped to mediate between Egypt and Israel, attended the meeting—UPI and Reuter.

## Third World Report

## Spreading deserts, largely the result of inefficiency, threaten lives of millions

By Pearce Wright, Science Correspondent.

More than 600 million people living in arid lands are at risk from starvation as creeping deserts engulf their fertile lands and water holes. Of these, at least 60 million are in imminent danger.

The state of many of them rests on the outcome of the United Nations conference on desertification, which opens in Nairobi today. The crisis is a result of soil erosion and water shortage in the arid areas of sub-Saharan Africa, which are being turned into infertile desert.

The process is often referred to as "desert creep" because a survey of the worst affected regions in Latin America, Africa, Arabia and Asia shows that millions of acres of at least marginally productive land are being lost each year. One estimate indicates that as much as three miles a year along the boundary between the desert and the savannah.

Although the great deserts of the world were created by natural phenomena, many of the processes causing spread are man-made. Papers prepared for the conference show that out of 45 causes, seven can be attributed to climatic change and at least 35 to human mismanagement of soil, water, energy, cultivation and grazing.

According to reviews made for the United Nations more than five million square miles of desert, an area larger than

Brazil, can be considered as man-made with a further 20 million square miles of land under threat. In the poor countries the consequences are starvation and death, economic ruin and the unsettling of societies.

The worst recent example was the disaster in the Sahelian region along the southern border of the Sahara. The long drought between 1968 and 1974 brought tragic consequences which provoked, after the emergency relief operation, the decision for a world conference to formulate longer term measures.

As part of the preparatory research for the Nairobi meeting, a detailed study of the process of desert creep was made in six of the most badly affected African and Asian countries. On this evidence a plan of action is being agreed between the countries involved with schemes which range from stabilising sand dunes with plants and shrubs along desert boundaries and improving irrigation systems, to the creation of an insurance scheme to cope with a severe drought.

Traditionally the inhabitants of most of these regions want to increase their herds, as wealth is measured in number of livestock. Increases in population and livestock together form a vicious circle. The herd grazes the nearest land and then seeks pastures further afield. More animals drink at a limited number of watering points. The area of cultivated land spreads

because there are more mouths to feed, but the yield from the rapidly exhausted soil decreases. As other plots are put under cultivation, trees and shrubs disappear, with a consequent erosion by wind of the soil.

Circumstances like this are identified in a study of the desert Sudan. Thirty years ago the rhythm of life was simple. Each peasant burnt the natural vegetation from a strip of land and grew crops on it for four or five years. At the end of that period the plot was allowed to lie fallow. Today the people go up to 50 miles to cut trees for fuel. Land is cultivated more intensively and the infertile area around every town and village is under pressure.

A research report says that the end of continuous drought in the Sahel in 1974 seemed to vindicate those who had maintained that normality would return, and to make fools of those who argued that a fundamental change of climate was in progress.

In fact it did neither, the authors maintain. But it did lead to a significant slackening of effort and political will, so short is the political time scale.

Drought will return to the Sahel, to monsoon India, to inland Australia, to the dry lands of Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Mexico. Much of the potential for desertification builds up in spells of favourable weather, when herds and crops are increased unwisely.

## Airline told to give Tamil refugees free flights

From Our Correspondent, Colombo, Aug 28.

Jayawardenne, the Prime Minister, has ordered Air Ceylon to provide free flights on its shuttle services to all Tamil refugees seeking to return to Jaffna in the north of Sri Lanka or Trincomalee and Batticaloa in the east.

Many refugees have already travelled north by rail and indications are that the evacuation will continue for the next few days.

Colombo, Aug 28.—A day of prayer was observed here today for the cessation of anti-Tamil violence. Adherents of the Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Christian faiths participated in religious ceremonies for the promotion of national peace and harmony.

The situation was quiet today in the country with only isolated incidents of arson and looting being reported. However, a seven-hour curfew was imposed from 9 pm tonight till 4 am tomorrow except in Jaffna.

The English-language newspaper *Weekend* today said the death toll as a result of the wave of violence, including looting and arson, had risen to 105. Official sources were not available to confirm or deny this.

Troops called out to assist the police have arrested more than 3,000 people for murder, arson, looting and assaults on innocent people.

Armed police guards have been placed outside the homes of Government ministers after the suspected bombing of the residence of Mr Cyril Manaw, Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs.—Agence France-Presse and AP.

## Bhutto anger at bribe claim

From Our Correspondent, Islamabad, Aug 28.

Pakistan Prime Minister, today protested to the military rulers who ousted him over allegations that he took an illegal commission of \$2m (about £1.2m) from defence purchases.

Press, radio and television have given widespread publicity to charges, particularly by General Gul Hasan, former Army chief of staff, that Mr Bhutto systematically abused the powers of his office.

Newspapers today published a lengthy statement by General

Gul Hasan alleging that among other things Mr Bhutto had in 1970 got a \$2m illegal commission on the purchase of French Mirage aircraft for the Pakistan Air Force.

After meeting General Zia, chief martial law administrator, for two hours, Mr Bhutto said he had protested against the wide publicity being given to "falsehood and slander."

He had also expressed his deep concern over threats to arrest him and over the detention of a number of his People's Party candidates for the October elections.

## Extensive programme for Mrs Thatcher's US visit

By Our Political Editor.

The itinerary of Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader, for her visit to the United States between September 6 and 14 includes talks with President Carter and Mr Vance, the Secretary of State.

She will also meet Mr Bert Lance, the Budget Director, Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, National Security Adviser, Mr Michael Blumenthal, the Secretary of the Treasury, and other members of the Administration, as well as senior officials of the International Monetary Fund.

The visit has been designed on both sides to be one of the most intensive diplomatic and presidential programmes carried out by a British Opposition leader in the United States.

She begins her travels in New York where she will join in editorial conferences at the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and Time-Life and meet Mr Ivor Richard, the British representative at the United Nations, and Mr Andrew Young, the United States representative.

After appearing on an ABC television programme, *Issues and Answers*, she will fly to Houston for a television programme, a meeting with heads of the National Aeronautics and

Space Administration, and a visit to an oil rig.

In Washington, where she will arrive on September 11, she will first dine privately with Mr Peter Jay, the British Ambassador, and next day deliver a private speech to the Washington Institute for Foreign Affairs. That day she will also call on Dr Harold Brown, the Secretary of Defence, and Dr James Schlesinger, the President's Assistant for Energy, before attending a dinner given in her honour by Mr Jay.

On September 13 she will meet the international relations committee of the House of Representatives, call on Mr George Meany, the president of the American Federation of Labour-Congress of Industrial Organizations, have lunch with the Senate foreign relations committee, and meet Mr Arthur Burns, the chairman of the Federal Reserve.

On the last full day of her visit Mrs Thatcher will be interviewed on television by NBC, hold a press conference at the British Embassy, and lunch with the editors of the *Washington Post*.

She will be accompanied on the visit by her husband, Mr Denis Thatcher, and Mr Adam Butler.

## Kremlin calls Somalia to talks on Ogaden

Cairo, Aug 28.—President Muhammad Siad Barre of Somalia is due in Moscow this week to meet Kremlin leaders who are displeased by the Somali-backed guerrilla invasion of Ethiopia, also a Soviet ally, according to reports in the Cairo press.

He would stay in Moscow for four days, Al-Ahram reported this morning. The newspaper said he was due to meet President Sadat in Cairo today but the Middle East News Agency later reported that this meeting had been postponed until after the Moscow visit.

Al-Ahram said President Brezhnev had invited General Siad Barre to discuss deteriorating Soviet-Somali relations after the outbreak of fierce fighting in the Ogaden region.

The Beirut newspaper Al-Nahar reported today that the Soviet Union was planning a peace conference in an East European capital bringing together all parties to the Ethiopian-Eritrean secessionist conflict.

Quoting Eritrean sources, the report said Moscow would back Eritrean independence from Ethiopia on condition that Eritrea's new leaders allowed the Soviet Union to extend its influence in the Red Sea zone.—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Nairobi, Aug 28.—Ethiopia today appealed to the United Nations to halt the fighting in the Horn of Africa.

Sporadic ground action continued in the Ogaden where Somali insurgents claimed they had seized virtually the entire region. Ethiopian Government communiqués said 160 Somalis were killed in scattered clashes in the past few days.

Announcing the appeal to the United Nations, Ethiopia radio said: "Unless the United Nations intervenes to a debating forum, the members of the Security Council must assume their responsibility and maintain international peace and security."

UPI.

Addis Ababa, Aug 29.—Ethiopia last night issued a decree that amounts to martial law following the call by Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Hailemariam, the military leader, for national mobilization a week ago.

The decree created a central revolutionary operations committee with national operations council, sector commands and coordinating committees at the regional, provincial and district levels.

Under the chairmanship of Colonel Mengistu, the national operations council is empowered to assign citizens to tasks deemed to be in the interest of the nation, to make use of all private and public facilities as required, to have right of access to all transport and communications service, and to control production and supply of essential commodities.

The coordinating committees are charged with fund-raising for the war effort, and the selection, registration and training of those going into active service.

Offenders convicted under the decree may face the death sentence. Suspected saboteurs may be imprisoned for up to six months without trial.—Agence France-Presse.

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NAME.....

COMPANY.....

ADDRESS.....



## Edward Mayer remembers bridge in the West End

Its geographical situation was  
or ideal for it offended against  
the Snobs' Commandment  
Never live north of the Park."  
In 1927 the members of  
the club were openly discuss-  
ing the poor service provided  
by the club and the likelihood  
of another club; unfortunately  
for them there was no mixed  
club in Mayfair of similar pres-  
tige. One of the principal  
presidents was a Lt Col  
H. Bessley, a gallant  
and energetic officer of considerable  
means who eked out a pension  
by playing bridge for modest  
stakes. His skill at the game was  
above average, he had written a  
small book on auction and early  
in the 1920s he had been his  
club's champion. It meant a  
considerable loss to him that

The annual subscription was supplied at the loss, and the profits from the bars barely covered the cost of service. The overcharges were higher than those of West End clubs, where there were no hosts and hostesses and a member of the committee was usually deputed to look after the card room. So members of mixed card clubs paid the same fee according to the number of seats taken at the table as those of the ladies' club. The average was \$1.40, no player could grumble at being charged 10 or even 15 cents more per session, because the average rubber was about 900

For most of the losers bridge was the cheapest recreation in which they enjoyed. The wealth of Korbushko, who could afford to rent salmon boats in Norway for her husband's recreation at a cost of \$17,000 a year would scarcely have noticed a loss at cards. One of my friends (and clients) named Harvey Solomon told me that he was serious that he was exceptionally busy because he wanted a girl friend in Paris whom he visited every week. He also humorously suggested that I should carry the initials "H.S." on the back of my glove, so that a Hispanic-Sutra might be advised that he had paid for it. I told him that he did not mind losing

quest for fame most of men agreed to play with him one time or another in the duplicate matches.

There is an illusion today that Crockerford's became the largest of London in the early thirties, a sense of high prestige and broad-based support. It became famous because, in the first time in history, the bridge matches were news and filled columns of the newspapers. Bessley had no system to sell; his only book was of the most elementary kind on construction, and he had done no work on, or given no independent thought to, new discoveries in the construction of concrete. He lacked the prestige in 1932 that he was enjoying a

... took first prizes at Vienna  
and Berlin. These international  
competitions were organised by the  
League of Nations which had been  
founded in most European  
countries, and there had grown  
up the conviction, fostered by  
armament-makers, that a for-  
m could be made out of  
teaching the principles of con-  
flict. The members of Cruck-  
shanks travelled with Beasley  
entirely at their own expense)  
played in his team because  
he wished to please him, and  
he did not see that he was trying  
to build himself into a second  
Silberberg. He certainly had no  
bidding system, and had  
never been thought of as  
being a threat to the

If a buyer could be found. Those who knew "Pops" as a gallant soldier, generous host and amusing companion, did not grasp that he had set his heart on achieving one ambition: to regale his children with the greatest bridge player in the world. He was a steady partner with no possible claim to distinction. However, he managed to have his photograph in the press whenever Crocford's was in a match; he secured a bridge column in the *Daily Mail* to which he contributed, and he was able to see that his column would last for a week.

Nobody wished to be his partner.

lost by more than 10,000  
points over 300 deals.  
e of Beasley's expensive mis-  
takes was to leave his partner  
in a forcing bid of the oppo-  
nents' suit. He should have  
known that he was being  
shown first round control of it,  
if he imagined his partner to  
be showing a genuine suit. Sir  
y Domville went seven  
tricks, leaving only the ace of  
trumps and a small diamond  
to his partner. He was  
deservedly foolish. This was  
Blackford's last claim to repre-  
sent Great Britain International.  
The Portland Club re-  
served as the principal arbiters  
of the new code of laws in great  
part with the American Club.

management of his family when the Hazards for allowance promises in 1948. He recognized how far it been throughout receiving support for... His only re-... in 1937, when the Justice... had been... in 1933... for pleasure... Daily articles... by Mail, and... images.

Deaver died in 194... founding the... h.

Edward Deaver, is...



and if a buyer could be found. Those who knew "Pops" as a gallant soldier, generous host and amusing companion, did not grasp that he had set his heart on achieving some ambition to be regarded as the greatest bridge player in the world. He was a steady partner in no possible claim to distinction. However, he managed to have his photograph in the press whenever Crankford's was on a match; he secured a bridge column in the *Daily Mail* to which he contributed, and he was able to see that it was not odd for a smelling of which would last for a

After retaining a modest lead for half the match, the English players deteriorated and eventually lost by more than 10,000 cross points over 300 deals. One of Beasley's expensive mistakes was to leave his partner out of a forcing bid of the opposite suit. He should have known that his partner was hanging back, and that he was being out-thought by the first round control of it as he imagined his partner to be showing a genuine suit. Six tricks Donville went down seven and the opponents made only the act of a dummy and was made to look unduly foolish. This was Beasley's last claim to represent the world. He was a member of the Portland Club, but emerged as the principal writer of a new code of laws in agreement with the American Guild.

Beasley was committed to several years, which would form a nucleus for himself and his family (for himself) at 21st St., Park Lane, in crowded, ill-disposed rockford's, but expediting openly about management of his family when the Haxley for allowing preferences in 1943. He recognized how far it had been throughout receiving support for centuries. His only release in 1937 when the late Joshua Crane, who had been died rockford's in 1933, for plagiarism of his articles published in the Daily Mail, and images.

Beasley died in 1941, after founding the bank.

Richard Meyer is 77.

The Times  
SPECIAL  
REPORT













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## HARD GOING FOR DR OWEN

Full details of the Anglo-American plan will be formally announced next Thursday. Dr Owen and Ambassador Young have been trying to get conditional acceptance from everyone concerned on a partial prospect. It seems that they have put in a partial rejection from everyone so far. Mr Vorster was in the outline yesterday. Mr Owen will get full details after the election, so that he cannot be in advance—though he has conditionally rejected the details that have so far come out. This way of doing things enables everyone to be in the best position to be first to torpedo the plan before he knows it all—and before it is too late.

Enough has been said to make it almost certain that the conditional rejection will become unconditional Thursday. The plan though entirely ingenious still leaves serious parties far apart on objectives. There does not seem to be any magic compound left that could be taken to the bag which would have all saying in unison, that little additive, or ions are met, we can without conditional rejections agree. But that is what is required.

Owen and Mr Young have valiantly tried to get the political forces in position as to give everyone

an incentive to settle. They evidently calculate that even Mr Smith accepts that there has to be a one-man-one-vote election that would be a majority, moderate, possibly even inter-racial, government. He cannot say so, but he says enough to leave his hands free. For the white voters are not electing him on a programme, but as a plenipotentiary to get them the best terms he can in preference to an unending war which at last they see they cannot win, and which they might lose before long. If Mr Smith (with Mr Vorster's support) recommends such a method of establishing moderate black rule in a subsequent referendum, they will vote Yes. Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo probably dislike such an election as much as the whites, but they cannot say so. The Presidents must back it. But hard-work agreement ends here.

The main stumbling block is the interim regime before and during that election. The Anglo-American plan aims at a partial disarmament all round. Mr Smith is to yield authority to a temporary British presence in those parts of the security forces most objectionable to the Africans, such as the Selous Scouts and the foreign volunteers, are to be disbanded. Equally the guerrillas are to be withdrawn under the pressure of the frontline Presidents. Law and order is to be kept by the remainder (largely black) of the security forces and the police, aided by a neutral

## AND NOT MUCH EASIER FOR MR CARTER

ent Carter remains fully optimistic about the progress towards the Middle East. But he allowed an understanding of anxiety and even a sense of despair to enter his mind. He attributes to his allies rather than to himself. But he adds, "I think my nation in the Middle East has proved to be an obstacle to progress... the condemnation of the rest of the world".

He has any particular in mind? It would seem most likely in his mind is his own behaviour since his visit to Washington. He failed to come up with a resolution. Twice Mr Carter's position has been moved from a formal disapproval of the Government's actions to a grant of permanent to three hitherto "temporary" Jewish settlements, and to a decision to establish new ones—thus bringing to three the total number of settlements in the West Bank.

Over Mr Vance made it clear at the end of his visit that he had found less flexibility in the Israeli than in the Arab, and Mr Carter's mission to confirm that the State had found a more compatible relationship among Arab leaders, without making any corresponding reference to Israel.

The new element of flexibility shown by the Arab states is understood to have been the acceptance by Egypt, Syria and Jordan that the settlement which they hope to negotiate at Geneva should be enshrined in a formal peace treaty between themselves and Israel, and by Egypt and Jordan that this might lead to diplomatic and commercial relations with Israel after a period of years. But as far as is known no Arab government was prepared to give up what has been the main procedural obstacle to a resumption of the Geneva conference, namely insistence that the Palestine Liberation Organization should be present. What some Arab governments did do was to hold out hopes that the PLO would make it easier for America to support this demand by announcing its acceptance of Resolution 242.

Both Mr Carter and Mr Vance made some play in public with these hopes. One must therefore suppose that Mr Carter is disappointed not only with Israel's inflexibility but also with that of the PLO, whose Central Council on Friday reaffirmed its opposition to Resolution 242 and denounced Mr Vance's well-meaning efforts as "projects which go against the national rights of our people". This seems particularly unfair since the PLO's objection to Resolution 242, that it "ignores the national rights of the people and deals with the cause as a cause of refugees" had been explicitly recognized on August 8 by President Carter who said that he

## MR CARTER

would have no objection if the PLO were to endorse the resolution with the rider "but we think the PLO should have additional status other than just refugees".

This proffered olive branch the PLO has rudely brushed aside. In so doing it has struck a blow against the Egyptian and Saudi strategy of seeking American support for a reasonable and moderate Arab position. What is distressing is that it has apparently done so with strong encouragement from Syria, voiced not only by pro-Syrian leaders within the PLO but by the official newspaper of Syria's ruling party, *Al-Bath*, which on the day the Central Council met in Damascus openly called on it to reject Resolution 242 "in whole or in part".

Yet Syria herself, by accepting Resolution 338 in October 1973, has also accepted Resolution 242; and moreover for the past year she has appeared a wholehearted supporter of the strategy of seeking a settlement through American good offices. President Assad indeed was full of praise for Mr Carter's sincerity after meeting him in Geneva last May. Since then Mr Begin has come to power in Israel, and Mr Carter has emphasized publicly that good offices do not mean pressure. Mr Assad could therefore be forgiven for having doubts about whether the strategy would work. But he would be foolish to assume the responsibility for wrecking it. Mr Carter's words about what the world would think of any nation that did that can apply just as much to Syria as to Israel.

## Wood nptation to ate for 8 election

Mr Wood's electoral grand has never been in doubt. It is to keep his government until autumn 1978, or into the autumn of 1979 so may go to the country for a mandate at a time when the national economic recovery is in the enjoyment of personal economic gains.

Yet the mere survival of the Labour Government at Westminster will not be enough, if the Government spends a full year advertising its parliamentary inactivity to government in the next general election it will be necessary to hit upon a time when the economy is coming right in all those particulars that impress not economists but also ordinary voters. Party managers have a habit of pretending that votes are turned by manifestos and programmes, announced and then realized in Statutes, rather than by the country's economic well-being, yet all their actions in government belie that, not least the present Government as by elections and opinion polls ran against them.

Yet no politician can confidently turn the present contradictions of economic indicators into political and economic plausibility; and that explains why Mr Callaghan and his senior ministers have to continue walking the nervous tightrope of arguing that everything, or nearly everything goes well, but meanwhile the nation must tighten its belt and go short today on the promise of abundance tomorrow. We consequently have a National Institute for Economic Research and much of the Labour Party and TUC movement calls for a free for all to boost the pay packet until it keeps pace with inflation.

trial slack, while workers are being asked to forgo the increase in personal incomes that is the only form of inflation they see as immediately relevant to their interests in a time of chronic inflation. The Government may fairly claim that non-socialist measures or serendipitous have brought about much economic improvement without raising the hope that the worst days are at an end. Although it may be argued that the Government has been brought under control and public borrowing has been reduced.

North Sea oil begins to move the balance of payments into surplus. Interest rates have not been lower for four years and Government stocks sell well. Share prices climb and gold and currency reserves reach higher levels. The pound rises against the troubled dollar, if not against other hard currencies. The annual rate of increase of the retail price index promises to fall a little, though at this season of the year that should be expected.

So far the United Kingdom could be said to be ripe for growth, perhaps even a much needed reflation if the IMF's auditors allow. But unemployment persistently stands higher than at any other time since the war, industry stagnates to the point where less is being produced than during the three day week of the miners' strike in 1974, and capital investment in the United Kingdom industry is lamentably lower than in competitor countries. Other words, short-term economic indicators look relatively promising, while long-term indicators are as bad as ever. Unfortunately, it is likely to be the effects of long-term indicators, particularly the employment trend, that may be expected to move votes back to Labour.

Circumstances are such then that an electorally opportunistic government, perhaps even a much needed reflation if the IMF's auditors allow. But unemployment persistently stands higher than at any other time since the war, industry stagnates to the point where less is being produced than during the three day week of the miners' strike in 1974, and capital investment in the United Kingdom industry is lamentably lower than in competitor countries. Other words, short-term economic indicators look relatively promising, while long-term indicators are as bad as ever. Unfortunately, it is likely to be the effects of long-term indicators, particularly the employment trend, that may be expected to move votes back to Labour.

## What the weather forecasters mean

From the Head of London Weather Centre

Sir, You recently published a letter from Dr Buisseret (August 23) in which he requested clarification of certain terms commonly used on BBC television to describe the weather in arbitrarily defined regions of the United Kingdom.

Whilst I think that the examples quoted by your correspondent were an extreme case, it does illustrate the sort of communication problem that meteorologists have in conveying the spatial and temporal changes of weather to the viewers on a single map of the United Kingdom.

Broadly, areas of the map are defined to emphasize the predominating type of weather expected during the period. Even this can be very difficult since weather systems are usually in continuous motion so that some temporal trends may have to be indicated in specified regions of the map. These difficulties are often exacerbated by the fact that weather systems evolve whilst they move, becoming more or less intense, broadening and shrinking in area, extent, etc.

In order to convey as much as possible of the variations in weather that are expected, special words and phrases are used by the weather forecaster for emphasis. Thus for example "sunny spells" (or periods) and "isolated showers" is meant to convey the likelihood of sunshine whilst including a slight risk of a shower. On the other hand "sunny intervals" and "scattered showers" places more emphasis on the likelihood of showers, which may be further emphasized by "occasional showers" if the likelihood is greater. The expression "showers or longer periods of rain" is meant to cover a situation in which a broad area of shower activity, ie, rain for periods of minutes may contain a smaller area within which rain is continuous for periods in excess of an hour.

It will be clear to the discerning reader that, in essence, the forecaster is trying to convey a measure of probability to the viewer. Weather—something which is intrinsically necessary in this scientific field.

I should like to assure your correspondent that we are continually seeking ways of improving our forecasting techniques within the limits of what the BBC can provide.

Yours faithfully,  
R. M. MORRIS, Principal Meteorological Officer,  
Head of London Weather Centre,  
284-286 High Holborn, WC1,  
August 25.

## Recognition of Vatican

From Dr John Tanner

Sir, As an Anglican layman I agree wholeheartedly with the views of your Religious Affairs Correspondent about the advantages that could result from this country by extending full recognition to diplomatic representatives of the Holy See.

He is, however, less than clear on one matter of fact, and I write lest it be thought that the issue remains one that could today, as in the past, cause embarrassment. Nuncios no longer claim the right to automatically be Deputies of the Diplomatic Corps, and the relapsing of this tradition shows the increasing flexibility and sensitivity that the Vatican's foreign service has added to its worldwide scope and age-old wisdom.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN TANNER,  
The Athenaeum,  
Falmouth, SW1,  
August 22.

## Perilous peaks

From Mr Francis Weiss

Sir, Mr Bernard Bulford's most sensible letter (Aug 23) reminded me of my first mountaineering experiences when I moved 45 years ago from the Continent to England. During the war I was the first of the World War as an officer with the Tyrolean Rifles, stationed mainly in the Dolomites. I regarded in the beginning the British "hills" with contempt. However, after having been surprised on several occasions, I have now a much more realistic view, after all, if anything happens, have to foot the bill, do not find it necessary to install large notices on approach routes and nearby villages, etc., to warn the reckless public, telling them that "Hill" and "summit" are not to be taken for granted, but are not equipment for climbing these most perilous peaks, with their weather and other hazards.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCIS WEISS,  
74 Overbury Avenue,  
Brockham,  
Surrey,  
August 24.

## Rules of pronunciation

From Professor Glanville Price

Sir, I hesitate to take issue with Professor Alan S. C. Ross over a matter of English pronunciation, but the fact that the abbreviation of *fantastic* is *fan* not *not* does not imply that the stress must have been on the first syllable (*The Times*, August 24). Did his students refer to him as *Prof* or as *ass*?

Yours faithfully,  
GLANVILLE PRICE,  
Department of Romance Studies,  
The University College of Wales,  
Aberystwyth,  
August 24.

## From Mr Robin McDouall

Sir, I am surprised that my friend Alan Ross (letter August 24) should write that there are "acceptable alternative pronunciations" of "controversy". Certainly there are two ways of pronouncing it, just as there are two ways of spelling it, but one is the U, the other non-U.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
ROBIN McDOWALL,  
2 Formosa Street, W9,  
August 24.

## Official secrecy and open government

From Mr James Michael

Sir, Peter Hennessy's report (August 24) that the Government may or may not be publishing a White Paper on an Official Information Bill looked curiously like one of those authorized leaks occasionally put out to test public opinion. It was the opinion of this small part of the public is that there should be a White Paper, or perhaps even a Green one, before legislation is introduced.

Whatever its colour, the paper should at least clarify the relationship between official secrecy and open government. The two subjects are closely related and, as reported, often confused. But the confusion sometimes appears to be deliberate.

As Mr Callaghan quipped to the Franks Committee: "You know the difference between leaking and briefing; leaking is what you do and briefing is what I do."

The real distinction is fairly simple. The law on government secrecy should recognize that some government information would, if disclosed, threaten national security or personal privacy, and so make such disclosures criminal. Most government information, however, does not threaten such interests, and the law should require its disclosure to the public. That is the essence of open government under the laws of Scandinavian countries and the United States.

British law, with a few minor exceptions, does not now recognize that distinction. Unauthorized disclosure of government information by a Crown servant is still an offence under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act. The Government's proposals apparently would make it a crime only to disclose certain kinds of classified information. This would not necessarily be an improvement, particularly if ministers had the last word in deciding whether information was properly classified.

And such "reforms" of the criminal law on official secrecy have

## Decline in suicide

From the Reverend Chad Varah

Sir, C. Bagley's research in the 60s showed a difference in suicides of 26 per cent between towns with a branch of The Samaritans and matched towns without. His statistical method was questioned by some who have to think non-professionals can ever prevent suicide, so he did his research again and reached a similar conclusion.

We ourselves knew that we saved many lives but were glad to have this demonstrated before we had such nation-wide coverage that no "control" towns could be found. There are now no important areas of England without Samaritans and whether they have a branch in their own neighbourhood or in an adjacent one, do not know about and trust and use The Samaritans.

The research you report (August 16) from *The Lancet* was therefore doomed to failure. It must be regarded as a misapplication of effort and funds. The country's leading psychiatrists, along with the vast majority of specialists in the International Association for Suicide Prevention, value a dedicated, selected network of "befrienders" for their effectiveness in that for which they exist, namely suicide prevention. Only a minority still seek for any other explanation for the dramatic fall in the English suicide rate (inversely matching the increase in Samaritans and their clients) than the patient listening and caring of 20,000 volunteers approached for the first time each year by a quarter of a million people of much higher than average intelligence.

The country may be glad The Samaritans have no intention of disbanding in order to show the suicide rate leaping upwards, but

## The fixing of air fare levels

From Mr Vladimir S. Slivitzky

Sir, Your recent editorial "Without attention to the consumers" (August 17) regrettably misrepresents the role of IATA, airlines and governments in air fare negotiations.

The air agreement between the UK and US Government, requires designated airlines of both nations to agree fares subject to governmental approval. US and UK agreements with certain other countries grant traffic rights between New York and London. Airlines of these countries also have an interest in North Atlantic fares as do airlines of European and other nations serving parallel routes. To prevent confusion and discrimination, governments recognize that all these airlines should have the opportunity to reach an understanding on the applicable tariff structure. IATA simply provides a forum for discussion by its member airlines and in no way dictates the terms of any agreement.

Laker's designation on London-New York certainly prompted comment from individual airlines, but it is a fact that no position on Skytrain services. Prior to the IATA agreement certain airlines operating between New York and London individually filed budget, stand-by and Apex tariffs with governments. Reconciliation of differing positions into a single IATA fare was prompted by Hammarström's comment regarding "The timely return to order and sanity"—order expressly required by government agreement to allow planning by consumers, agents and airlines. There is no attempt to drive Laker out of business; the prices proposed are marginally higher than Laker's because of different service conditions.

You suggest IATA has kept North Atlantic fares far higher than they would be if it were not for the world's most affluent societies, IATA carriers offer some of the lowest international fares available. In recent years few airlines, IATA or non-IATA, have managed to break out of the "blue ribbon" North Atlantic route. Most have had substantial losses.

You recognize IATA's "basic tariff structure" has "some justification", but complain at the "tangle of cut-price air travel schemes". This contradiction ignores competitive market forces at work and the need to stimulate demand without dilution of existing traffic.

Travellers have benefited over the years from the range of prices and services offered by IATA carriers. Why assume that Laker is the only airline with the consumer interest at heart? The IATA system may not be perfect but seemingly regardless of the stability or choice it provides, it will be damned by airlines if IATA is not allowed to respond to the market place by introducing lower fare alternatives, and damned if they do.

Yours sincerely,  
VLADIMIR S. SLIVITZKY,  
Assistant Director-General,  
International Air Transport Association,  
c/o Chemin de Joinville,  
1216 Cointrin-Geneva,  
Switzerland,  
August 19.

## Political violence

From Professor Kenneth Little

Sir, It is reported that Mr Peter Shore has backed the decision of Richmond Borough Council. It had refused to allow the change of use of a terraced house to a political headquarters of the National Front.

Further, the local Tory MP, Mr Jessell, the local Tory MP, said: "... a quiet suburban road is not a suitable site for a highly contentious party to have their headquarters".

What a pity that there is apparently no means of classifying Lewisham as a suburban area. Such a designation might not only win Tory support for those in Lewisham who also want a quiet life. It might also enable Lewisham's inhabitants—white as well as black—to go about their lawful business without being battered in the interests of alleged rights to freedom of expression.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH LITTLE,  
66 North Castle Street,  
Edinburgh,  
August 20.

## Year of the hoverfly

From Dr W. S. Bristowe

Sir, The vast swarms of hoverflies in the south and east of England, certainly from Devon to East Anglia, between August 8 and August 18 represented species never before recorded in the British Isles (see *Syllabus* of British Insects, 1977, pp. 100-101). The temporary invasion across the sea from Holland and France is now over. Most of them are now drowned either on their inward or outward passage across the sea.

The reasons for these lemming-like migrations are obscure, but they are probably due to their population explosion, scarcity of food supplies in their home countries, and something in the climatic conditions.

Yours, etc.,  
W. S. BRISTOWE,  
The Mill House,  
Bottle,  
Surrey,  
August 26.

## Newton's achievement

From Mr J. E. Denyer

Sir, Newton is popularly remembered for being hit on the head by an apple, but another of his great achievements, as Warden of the Mint, was the restoration of the currency by setting up mints throughout the country to replace the old "clippings" which had been "clipped" and then "clipped" again. It is too much to hope that Newton's achievement of the currency will be remembered by J. E. DENYER, Beech House, Windlesham, Surrey.

## Homework

From Mrs J. A. Hall

Sir, So far the views of primary school teachers, concerning home work, have not been represented. As one of that worthy band perhaps I may be permitted to speak for many of them.

Every day, from my class of 35 10-year-olds, I am presented with 198 pieces of work to be marked. In addition, I have projects, often running to 40 or 50 pages each, to mark twice a term, not to mention listening to reading, giving individual help to children with particular difficulties and assisting in after school activities two or three times a week. I spend every lunch time marking as well as part of each evening and before school begins. If I am lucky, I have three half-hour periods free each week while my class is taken for French, but often this is taken up with administrative duties, ordering new books, discussions concerning difficult children and attending to the library for

## Jubilee flagstaffs

From Lieutenant-Colonel B. L. J.

Sir, In June, 1953, you published a letter from me suggesting that flagstaffs erected as part of Coronation decorations should be retained and kept in use.

I thought that suggestion with the obvious application to Silver Jubilee flagstaffs. It is noticeable that we seem to be flying flags much more freely than in the past—long may the custom continue. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
B. L. J. DAVY,  
South Penarth,  
St Clement's Hill,  
Truro, Cornwall.

## Fuel from mud

From Mrs Jacqueline Worthington

Sir, The idea of making fuel out of mud is not so novel as your correspondent Sir Ralph Cochrane (August 22) appears to believe. In one of his *Four Essays* published in



















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